Thomasville Station Ga
Feby 28th 1874

Lt. C. A. Stephens

Dear Sir

Enclosed find
one account on Thomas Alvares in favor of Johnson
& Lawson which they have placed in my hands
for collection out of his property in this County
I wrote to Tom about it twice since he left here
and he promises to pay it soon but fails to do so
I have delayed suit waiting on Tom until I can
wait no longer as the Plaintiffs will go to work on
me if I delay longer, Tom ought to settle it as he
justly owes it to Mr. Lawson who is a very clever
gentleman indeed, I hate to disturb Tom's property
here as an officer and know especially so because I
am peculiarly attached to him as a friend And he
left all his business here in my hands, but you
know I am compelled to act when called on in
official capacity, will you do me the favor to go
and see Tom and urge upon him the importance
of settling the matter immediately and not suffer
himself arrested in his new home especially upon one
spree where so much whiskey is charged, for it would
certainly mortify the feelings of his friends, family
and relations if however he fails to make any

10 2 X

Satisactory arrangement please Execute in the hands of Your District Magistrate with instructions to carry it to Judgement and then forward Execution to me and I will send the costs of suit to the J.P. immediately Please Keep this matter privat from all except Ford to whom You may show this letter, for I am satisfied he will appreciate my position, as I do this in order to avoid issuing an Attachment here against his property in this county I and doing what I can him for him. My family is well, no news of interest. Please to Ford at once and write me the result of the interview. I will write you at length some day soon, as the train is coming I must desist - For the present

Very Respectfully yours &
J. E. Smith

N.B. Your early attention will greatly oblige Yours truly

J E S